NATIONAL LIBRARY of MEDICINE

NEWS

ISSN 0027-965X

Published for institutions and individuals interested in health sciences communications.

Vol. XXXIV, No. 7 | Bethesda, Maryland 20209 | July 1979

Retrospective Conversion of NLM's Shelflist

The future of card catalogs is a topic of widespread discussion and study in all major libraries in the United States. Although the new cataloging rules to be implemented in 1981 have precipitated the current discussions, libraries have been concerned for some time as they experience physical deterioration of files and ever-increasing costs for file maintenance.

Because NLM has had an automated catalog for almost 15 years (which now represents almost 40 percent of the general collection), the issue of closing the card catalog and discontinuing the manual system has been considered for a number of years. Although the cataloging records have been in machine-readable form since 1965, NLM has continued to maintain the manual card catalog so that users would still have a single access point. This activity involves generating by computer and manually filing approximately 200,000 cards per year. Furthermore, this maintenance requires a high level of competence to interpret and apply the existing filing rules. Early in 1978, the NLM Director authorized the development of plans to close the card catalog and to develop alternative methods to access the catalog files.

A number of studies were undertaken to assess the nature of the task and to develop procedures for an orderly closing of the card catalog. A detailed analysis of the shelflist predicted that the catalog would contain approximately 500,000 items by 1980, of which 200,000 would already be automated and in CATLINE®. The analysis further revealed that the shelflist was in good condition and readily convertible into machine-readable form.

It was estimated that the cost of converting the 300,000 non-machine records for the pre-1965 period into a computerized format would be comparable to the cost of maintaining the card catalog over a five-year period. The study showed that the major cost of conversion would be keyboarding the records (under a contract over three years). These expenditures were viewed as a foundation for future automation and control projects of benefit to NLM's internal processing and for increased services to online network users.

The plans for retrospective conversion have been approved and the Technical Services Division is soliciting contract proposals. The Lister Hill Center and the Office of Computer and Communications Systems, working closely with TSD staff, have been developing a specialized data entry system to support the keyboarding activity. The targeted start-up date for the project is fall 1979.

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NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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NLM Satellite Experiments End

With a final telecast on June 27, the Library's Lister Hill Center brought to a close almost a decade of satellite communications experiments. The Center's experiments began in April 1970 with the ATS-1 satellite, continued with the ATS-6 in 1974, and concluded with a series of experiments on the CTS satellite.

During its 818 days of operation, the CTS network had logged 2082.7 broadcast hours. Over 16,000 people had appeared before the cameras, logging a total of 46,732 participant/hours.

The final telecast was in the form of a report on the WAMI (Washington, Alaska, Montana, Idaho) telecommunications experiment centered at the University of Washington in Seattle. The interactive telecast involved the portable terminal at Orcas Island (Washington) and the terminals in Seattle and Bethesda.

The experiments with satellite communications, sponsored by the National Library of Medicine and other HEW health agencies, have successfully demonstrated that a range of health communications services can be offered by this medium. These services range from two-way voice and video communication between physicians and health aides in remote areas, to providing medical education to distant students, to interactive teleconferencing among widely scattered health professionals. A series of summary reports describing the Lister Hill Center's experiences with the CTS satellite will be made available from the National Technical Information Service. These will be announced in a future issue of the *NLM News*.

Brochure Describes Two Toxicology Publications, Offers Discount

The Library's Toxicology Information Program prepares two monthly publications which are sold on subscription by the National Technical Information Service in Springfield, VA 22161 (see *News*, May 1977 and January 1978). *TOXTIPS* covers current announcements of long-term toxicology testing, and the *Toxicology Research Projects Directory* is an inventory of ongoing research projects in toxicology and related fields.

In order to promote the use of these valuable references, the National Technical Information Service has prepared a six-page, illustrated brochure. The brochure provides helpful ordering information, as well as a special discount offer for purchasers of both publications. For a copy of the brochure or additional information about these publications write to the National Library of Medicine, Toxicology Information Program, Attn: Carol Haberman, Bethesda, MD 20209.

New NLM Literature Searches

Two new bibliographies in the 1979 series of NLM Literature Searches may now be requested from the Library's Reference Section (see below). Literature Searches are printed bibliographies produced through MEDLINE on subjects of current interest. They are available without charge. (A complete list of titles appears in each issue of *Index Medicus* and *Abridged Index Medicus*.) When requesting Literature Searches, please include title and number, enclose a self-addressed gummed label, and mail to:

Literature Search Program
Reference Section
National Library of Medicine
Bethesda, Maryland 20209

LS 79-8 *Hospices*. January 1966 through May 1979. 92 citations.

LS 79-9 *Psychological aspects of rheumatoid arthritis*. January 1975 through June 1979. 98 citations.

Biomedical Library Review Committee

Three new members have been named to the Biomedical Library Review Committee as of July 1. The Committee meets three times a year to review NLM grant applications. The Committee, headed by newly elected chairman John F. Sherman, Ph.D., Vice President of the Association of American Medical Colleges, meets next on November 13-14, 1979.

The new members replace Sholom Pearlman, D.D.S., Pricilla M. Mayden, and Robert Wedgeworth, whose terms expired June 30. The new members, appointed to four-year terms, are:

Gloria H. Hurwitz
Coordinator of Learning Resource Facilities and Assistant Professor
Visual Education Department
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, VA

John A. Starkweather, Ph.D.
Professor of Medical Psychology
University of California
San Francisco, CA

Richard L. Storrer
Consultant (self-employed, Hershey, PA; formerly, Vice President for Education and Research, The Hospital Association of Pennsylvania)

Tropical Medicine Bibliography

A new bibliography on tropical medicine is being produced by the National Library of Medicine on a trial basis during 1979. The *Quarterly Bibliography of Major Tropical Diseases* is a cooperative project of NLM and the World Health Organization's Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases.

WHO's Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases is a concerted effort to control filariasis, leishmaniasis, leprosy, malaria, schistosomiasis, and trypanosomiasis. The new quarterly bibliography, prepared through NLM's MEDLINE system, covers these six major tropical diseases; it is distributed by WHO to scientists and institutions in tropical countries. (Scientists in other countries who require a copy of this Bibliography during the trial period of 1979 may write to NLM's Office of Inquiries, Bethesda, MD 20209.)

A first pilot issue (Vol. 1, No. 1, 4th quarter 1978) was produced by NLM, printed with funds from the Medical Information Center (MIC) of the Karolinska Institutet, and distributed by the WHO Tropical Disease Programme. Issues for 1979 (beginning with Vol. 2, No. 1, January-March 1979) are being produced and printed by NLM for primary distribution by WHO in Geneva, Switzerland.

NLM Seeks Catalogers

The National Library of Medicine is seeking qualified applicants for three vacancies in the Catalog Section. The salary range is $13,014 - $19,263 (GS Grades 7, 9, and 11). Information from the personnel vacancy notice is provided below:

Catalog Librarian, GS 1410, 7/9/11 — $13,014/$15,920/$19,263

Performs professional level original cataloging, descriptive and subject, with NLM Classification, Anglo-American Cataloging Rules: preference for experienced catalogers.

Excellent reading comprehension of at least one of the following languages or language groups: Russian, German, Dutch or Scandinavian; and good reading comprehension of a second foreign language, preferably from the above group or Japanese. Preference to those familiar with Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) and NLM Classification.

Applicants must have a master's degree in library science. Temporary appointment pending Civil Service rating and Certification. Immediate appointment if now rated by Civil Service or eligible for reinstatement.

Application on U.S. Standard Form 171. U.S. Citizens only; EOE.

Submit to: Personnel Office
National Library of Medicine
Bethesda, MD 20209
ATTN: Judy Duff

For further information, call (301) 496-6093.

The New England Regional Medical Library Service

by C. Robin LeSueur*

The New England Regional Medical Library Service (NERMLS) is the agency for the execution of RML programs in the six New England states. A critical aspect of NERMLS during the 1970s has been the long hiatus between Countway Librarians, which left the Region without a Director. During this period, a stable NERMLS staff, in consultation with an informally organized Task Force composed of librarians primarily from major New England health sciences libraries, accomplished the decentralization of the document delivery system to subcontracting libraries, and a relatively harmonious withdrawal from a document delivery system fully subsidized by the National Library of Medicine to one of increasingly limited subsidy. Though it met irregularly, the Task Force enhanced coordination of Regional activities, particularly those connected with document delivery, and its final, splendid achievement was the development of the organization which replaced it in July 1978, the New England Regional Medical Library Advisory Council (NERMLAC).

With the appointment of a Countway Librarian in December 1977, a fresh assessment of the New England RML Program and the reorganization of NERMLS began. An Associate Director of RML was appointed that same month, and subsequent realignment of NERMLS professional functions resulted in a headquarters staff that includes a Coordinator for Document/Extension Services, a Coordinator for Online Extension Services, an Education Specialist, two AV consultants, and a consultant on the administration of headquarters grants and contracts.

Consortium Development

A distinctive feature of the present RML network in New England is the number of consortia that have been developed by the librarians of basic unit libraries. From the beginning of the RML program in New England in 1967, the basic units have been seen as its essential foundation, and NERMLS has been involved heavily in hospital library development programs, the success of which laid the groundwork for the consortium movement. Today there are 6 consortia in Massachusetts with 111 members, 3 in Connecticut involving 23 libraries, 3 cooperatives coordinating the programs of 32 libraries in New Hampshire and Vermont and a few libraries in Northern New York state, and the Health Science Library and Information Center (HSLIC) in Maine, which has 57 institutional members. The collective subject scope of most of these consortia is broader than that of a group of conventional hospital libraries since membership may include the libraries of such health-related organizations as insurance companies and pharmaceutical firms. The strength of this type of local cooperation will be extended further by the recent trend to coordinate the programs of individual consortia. One example of this is the formal organization of a Tri-Consortia in Massachusetts, which forms an active interface between the Consortium for Information Resources (CIR) (composed of institutions in the western suburbs of Boston), the Northeast Consortium for Health Information (NECHI) (covering the coastal areas north of Boston), and the Central Massachusetts Consortium for Health Related Libraries (CMCHRL) (in the area of Worcester). This consortium movement, strongly supported by NERMLS, is seen as a primary strength of the New England RML Network.

Education and Training

Another constant theme of NERMLS activities has been education. A continuing question in the development of education programs is the degree of an RML's responsibility in providing opportunities for education to professionals and to pre-professionals.

NERMLS reacted strongly to the potential weakness of a library network many of whose essential basic units might never be accorded

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the services of a professional librarian. The consequence was a series of Library Training Institutes, designed to teach basic library skills to hospital personnel without formal library training who are charged with operating a hospital library, so that they might become effective library managers and knowledgeable users of the RML network. With the seventeenth Institute presented in March 1979, nearly 400 trainees had benefited from this intensive, five-day program. A number of these trainees subsequently obtained MLS degrees and have been responsible for the development of strong hospital libraries. Elements of the Library Training Institutes program have been "exported" to other Regions.

Experience with the Library Training Institutes and with other workshops on audiovisuals, management, budget design, and consortium development, demonstrated the need for qualified instructors. The most effective instructors obviously would be graduate librarians with teaching skills. To produce such instructors, NERMLS, in collaboration with faculty of the Harvard School of Public Health, developed programs for instruction in educatonal methodology. The first offering, Program for Educational Planners, taught the participants how to plan and evaluate a course in health sciences librarianship. The second offering, Teaching Techniques for Medical Librarians, taught the skills and techniques necessary to convey the content of such a course. These two offerings, refined by the evaluations of the participants, will be repeated as required.

The continuing education needs of professional librarians also are being addressed through programs on personnel management, general management theory and techniques, library consultation, and the utilization of online bibliographic data bases. In particular, the broadening of NLM's MEDLINE training programs to encourage regional training of searchers is influencing continuing education planning in Region I. The designation of two Technical Resource Persons, their training at NLM in 1978, and the selection of the NERMLS Coordinator for Online/Extension Services late that same year, began the development of new and innovative programs to encourage use of NLM's data bases by New England hospital librarians. A three-month feasibility study to demonstrate the value of a shared online system was conducted successfully in the hospitals of the Northeast Consortium for Health Information in the summer of 1978. MEDLINE workshops and demonstrations are an integral part of NERMLS activities, not only as educational functions, but to promote the use of the latest information technology in clinical settings. Through the NERMLAC Education Committee, regional needs in library education will continue to be identified and relevant programs developed, faculty prepared, and co-sponsors for special programs recruited, particularly for MLA/CE courses. Major elements of NERMLS planning of education activities include the decentralization of program sites throughout New England and the vigorous involvement in program planning and presentation of regional resource persons, educators, and participants.

RML Advisory Council

The most significant event of 1978 was the formation of NERMLAC, which held an organizational meeting in November and began its quarterly meetings in February 1979. To those librarians who were involved in the former Task Force, this new advisory body adds representatives of the state library agencies of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, and two librarians from each state elected by the state health sciences librarians' association. This composition provides a structure for presenting to the RML the needs and ideas of librarians throughout New England, for interpreting the RML program to the Region, and for serving as a vital interface with the non-health-science libraries in each state. To disperse participation in RML activities throughout the Region, NERMLAC's ad hoc committees are composed of librarians not already members of the Council.

Document delivery

An immediate priority for the new Advisory Council was the development of a plan for the equitable sharing of document delivery costs throughout the Region. Regional cost sharing is the latest aspect of RML programs in their evolu-

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tion in response to changing national conditions. Plans to shift a larger share of document delivery costs to each Region were being developed in other Regions as early as 1976. Building upon the preliminary work of the Task Force, in February 1979 NERMLAC produced a Cost Sharing Plan that was based upon the projected ability of the Basic Units to satisfy among themselves up to 75 percent of their own document needs. Those documents not available from local sources would be purchased at regional unit cost from any Resource Library in New England known to have the needed material, or obtained by a Resource Library from outside Region I as a referral reimbursed by the NLM. The Plan also will replace the previous structure of Subcontractor and Designated Libraries, a system of Resource Libraries which enables reimbursable participation by strong subject-specific collections in the Region as sources of first resort for materials not held by Basic Units. Major features of the Plan, which is to be implemented in January 1980, include commitment by NERMLS to local and regional serials list development, and to the promotion of consortia.

The NERMLS approach to network management relies heavily upon the role of NERMLAC members as informed representatives of their particular contituencies, and as effective interpreters of NERMLS programs, in the building of a strong, efficient network in which participants have responsibilities as well as privileges. Preparing for the future, NERMLAC is developing a long-range Regional Plan which will promote the confluence of library and information science planning throughout New England through active collaboration with such groups as the New England Library Board, regional Health Service Agencies, associations of librarians and information scientists, library schools, and other local, state and regional agencies.

Personnel Notes

Staff Honors

On June 18th, two NLM staff members were presented with honorary awards by NIH Director Donald S. Fredrickson, M.D. **Dean W. Darby,** D.D.S. (Chief of the National Medical Audiovisual Center's Educational Training and Consultation Branch) received a commendation medal in recognition of his development of training materials on information transfer. **Joseph W. Hutchins** (a computer systems analyst in the Library's Office of Computer and Communications Systems) received an NIH Director's Award for developing a number of sophisticated, online data management subsystems for MEDLARS.

Jeanne L. Brand, Ph.D., (Chief of the International Programs Division, Extramural Programs) received an honorary degree as St. Lawrence University (Canton, OH) honored alumnae prominent in the field of medicine and public health at spring commencement exercises. A 1941 honor graduate of St. Lawrence, Dr. Brand earned her master's at the University of Rochester, was a graduate fellow at Radcliffe, and received her Ph.D. from the University of London. Dr. Brand first became associated with the U.S. Public Health Service in 1956 when she was Medical Research Programs Specialist in NIH's Research Grants and Fellowship Branch. She has been with NLM's Extramural Programs since 1970, and also lectures in the history of medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD.

Staff Losses

- William H. Ford, Jr., Computer Specialist, Lister Hill Center
- Roosevelt Quick, Computer Operator, Office of Computer and Communications Systems
- Helen Watts, Secretary, Extramural Programs
- Deborah Chambers, Procurement Clerk, Office of Contracts Management

AV/Microfiche Conversion Funded

The J. Hillis Miller Health Center Library at the University of Florida has been awarded a three-year NLM Resource Project Grant to support the systematic conversion of slide-tape programs into microfiche format. The project is timed to coincide with an extensive curriculum revision now underway in the School of Dentistry and is a collaborative effort between the dental school and the library. Mr. Ted Srygley, Director of the Library, and Dr. Ronald Bass,

Associate Professor of Dentistry, are serving as co-directors of the project.

The project focuses on the logistics and efficiency of microfiche production and utilization. Student usage and acceptance of microfiche will be monitored, and the costs of fiche production and storage will be measured. The study has considerable significance as a pilot project for the field of audiovisual education, especially for dentistry, and for health science libraries concerned with the utilization of audiovisual technology.

New Executive Officer

Philip D. Amoruso

Philip D. Amoruso, formerly Administrative Officer of the Division of Cancer Treatment, National Cancer Institute, has been appointed NLM's Executive Officer. In this position, Mr. Amoruso will serve as the Director's principal staff officer for management and general administration.

Mr. Amoruso, as Executive Officer, will be an active participant in formulating the Library's policies and in coordinating NLM's various program activities. Under his direction are the NLM offices involved with program analysis and legislation, financial management, procurement, contracts, and personnel. In addition he will coordinate the activities of the various NLM administrative officers—providing administrative and policy guidance to assure effective services to the operating programs of the Library.

A native of Wilmington, Delaware, Mr. Amoruso received his B.S. in 1966 from the University of Delaware and a master's degree in public administration in 1971 from American University in Washington, D.C. Mr. Amoruso joined the National Institutes of Health in 1966 as a personnel management specialist. He has been with the National Cancer Institute since 1969, serving in a variety of administrative management positions, most recently as a Division administrative officer.

TSD Chief Named

Tamas E. Doszkocs, Ph.D.

Tamas E. Doszkocs, Ph.D., has been named to head the Technical Services Division—the component of NLM's Library Operations which includes cataloging, selection/acquisitions, and serial records. He replaces Dan Tonkery, who left NLM to become Associate University Librarian with UCLA's University Research Library.

Dr. Doszkocs, a native of Hungary, has had extensive training and experience in library and information science. Studies at the University of Maryland earned him an M.L.S. in 1968, an M.S. (computer science) in 1972, and a Ph.D. in information science in 1979. From 1974 until his new appointment he worked in the Library's Toxicology Information Program (TIP)—first under an Intergovernment Personnel Agreement (IPA) with the University of Maryland, and later as an Expert Consultant. His varied assignments in TIP included participation in the development of the Laboratory Animal Data Bank, serving as Technical Director of TIP's Systems Design and Management Branch, and providing technical consulting services for the National Cancer Institute, the Smithsonian Science Information Exchange, and others.

Publications Grants (Cont.)

This continues the list of recent publications resulting from NLM support under the Medical Library Assistance Act (see *News*, June 1979).

O'Neill, Ynez Viole. "The funfbilderserie—A Bridge to the Unknown," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, Vol. 51, 1977, pp. 538-549.

_____ ."An Anatomical Mystery, with Global Dimensions," *Proceedings of the 25th International Congress for the History of Medicine*, Quebec, 1976, pp. 1031-1044.

Patterson, K. David. "River Blindness in Northern Ghana, 1900-50," In: *Disease in African History: An Introductory Survey and Case Studies*, edited by Gerald W. Hartwig and K. David Patterson. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1978, pp. 88-117.

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Rather, L.J. *The Genesis of Cancer; a Study in the History of Ideas.* Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1978. 262 pp.

Roseberg, Charles E. "The Origins of the American Hospital System," *Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine*, Vol. 55, No. 1, January 1979, pp. 10-21.

Ryckman, Raymond E. and Casdin, Margaret A. "The Triatominae of Western North America, A checklist and Bibliography," *California Vector News*, Vol. 23, Nos. 9/10, September/October 1976, pp. 35-52.

_____ . "The Polyctenidae of the World, A Checklist with Bibliography," *California Vector News*. Vol. 24, Nos. 7/8, July/August 1977, pp. 25-31.

Savitt, Todd L. "Slave Life Insurance in Virginia and North Carolina," *The Journal of Southern History*, Vol. 43, No. 4, November 1977, pp. 583-600.

_____ . *Medicine and Slavery: The Diseases and Health Care of Blacks in Antebellum Virginia.* Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1978, 332 pp.

Sheridan, Richard B. "The Role of the Scots in the Economy and Society of the West Indies.' In: Comparative Perspectives on Slavery in New World Plantation Societies edited by Vera Ruben and Arthur Tunden. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, Vol. 292, N.Y.: The New York Academy of Sciences, 1177, pp. 94-106.

To be concluded in August issue.

NIH Consensus Development Conferences

Inquiries about two upcoming NIH Consensus Development Conferences (see *News*, March & April-May 1979) may be addressed to the Office for Medical Applications of Research, Room 216, Building 1, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20205:

- Sept. 10-11 *Intraocular Lens Implantation* (sponsored by the National Eye Institute)
- Sept. 13-14 *Estrogen Use and Postmenopausal Women* (sponsored by the National Institute on Aging)

The following summaries of recent NIH Consensus Development Conferences have been mailed to *News* readers within the past few weeks:

- *Primary Breast Cancer: Management of Local Disease* (sponsored by the National Cancer Institute)
- *Steroid Receptors in Breast Cancer* (sponsored by the National Cancer Institute)